# Point Three April 1986 20p



The monthly magazine of TOC H

## Point Three

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Letters, articles and news items are welcomed, and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911)

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Toc H is a Movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is the group — at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood — which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Rev P B 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

- 1. To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.
- 2. To give personal service.
- 3. To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.
- 4. To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points.

Cover picture

A child of the 1980s. See article 'Child Abuse — Is this one answer?' in this issue.

Photo: Barnaby's Picture Library

## Editorial

## THE MYTH OF THE RESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATION

I was given a silly calendar at Christmas. Every month has a picture of one or more animals, mainly in undignified postures, and a pungent caption. As I write, the one that faces me is that of two braying asses, and the caption reads Everyone has a right to my opinion!' It is not a comfortable thought for an Editor as he sits down to offer his opinion to his readers, but maybe all Editors should live under that shadow!

It is, of course, good basic Toc H that everyone — even the ones we may deem braying asses — has a right to an opinion, and to express it. The early Movement was exhorted to "listen hospitably and humbiy to Everyman's story, and to help the Truth to prevail'. We may phrase it a bit differently today, but the Compass Point of Fairmindedness is meaningless unless we really try and do that. Yet there are all sorts of pitfalls, diversions and stumbling blocks in the way. One of these is what I shall call the 'myth of the residential qualification'.

In November and January Point Three we carried two articles on South Africa. One from Alan Paton (who has spent his life there) and one from Stephen and Jonathan Bach, of whom the former spent a total of seven months there. Predictably, if sadly, the very first letter received on this topic sought to dismiss the Bach's article on the grounds that, compared to Alan Paton, they really hadn't lived there long enough to know. The implication clearly there was that one has to have a minimum residential qualification before one can begin to argue with a native.

That is the thin end of a very doubtful wedge, and leads into dangerous territory. The writer of that letter will, I am sure, have his own opinions of what is happening in many countries throughout the world. He probably, and quite properly, has opinions on Russia, and Iran, and Afghanistan and the Philippines, and so on. For me to suggest to him that he shouldn't have, or express, such opinion because I can find someone who lives there who happens to disagree, is nonsense. He would, I hope reject that outright . . . and rightly so.

Of course those who have lived in another country, or spent a long time there, have a very important contribution to make, and we should seek it and hear it. That does not, therefore, mean that it is automatically more right than the, perhaps more objective, view of the person who has studied it carefully from afar, let alone the person who has done that AND spent seven months there! The essence of Fairmindedness is, surely, that we cannot go everywhere, and meet everyone, so in the absence of first-hand knowledge we have to form our own opinions in other, careful, ways. To then have those views dismissed because we haven't been there is ridiculous. After all, most of us have views on hanging, and not many of us have been hanged! Does that invalidate our view?

The 'myth of the residential qualification' also pops up now and then in Toc H. There is a tendency for some of us who have been around for 20 or 30 or more years to dismiss the views of newcomers as unimportant. If a new member, or young volunteer, or new recruit to the staff ventures a critical view it is sometimes met with the cry 'Ah, they haven't been in Toc H long enough to understand!' That is, in modern parlance, a real 'put down', and it stifles growth and useful debate. There is no minimum time which you have to endure in Toc H before your view is worth expressing; certainly not in a Movement which has always stressed that the newcomer is not only welcome, but essential to our fellowship. The new opinion may be right, or it may be nonsense, but it must be challenged on good grounds, and shown to be wrong, not dismissed because it came from someone too new, or young, or in some other way 'handicapped'. To dismiss an argument on those grounds is to admit that one has no better grounds, and is an admission of bankruptcy.

It may be a wild fantasy, but I wonder whether from time to time, nearly 2,000 years ago, certain venerable Jewish priests murmured 'What right has this Jesus chap to criticise? When he's lived here as long as we have he'll learn it isn't quite so simple!' We all have the right to comment, and we also have the right to have our false views challenged with the facts, so that we may make a better judgment in the future, and so that Truth may prevail.

**JEM** 

## **Personality Point**

The following new members were registered during January/February:

Thomas W Anglesea, John T Gregory (Buckley M): Mrs Gladys M Rees (Burraton W); Tertius W Jack (Cardiff J); Roy W Hare (Caister on Sea J); Revd Derek M Buxton (Central); Andrew Caulfield (Denton J); Terry Rowan (Elmstead J); Norman K Bosher (Fleet J); Mrs Joan E Aubrey, William P Aubrey (Gloucester J); Mrs Sybil R Snowden (Hartley Wintney W); Mrs Jean Cook (Holme Valley J); John Lunn, Robert T Currie, George Williams (Jedburgh); John A 'Peter' Simpson (Lincoln J); Harry F Robinson (Mablethorpe & Sutton on Sea J); Edward S Bryden (Nailsea M); Miss Tracy Davison, Phillip Raine (Newbottle J); Cyril Foster (Newsome M); Mrs Joan Sellar, Reginald P Osborne (Seaford J); Mrs Evelyn Dodson, Mrs Christine M Pitman (Stamford J); Mrs Doris Wilson (Tunbridge Wells W); Edward A MaQuire (Walton (Street) J); Henry Oseland (Wellingborough M); Mrs Gladys Beddow, Leonard W Beddow (Wem J).

A warm welcome to 31 new members

### Welcome

to Derek and Elizabeth Bartrop, who take over at Alison House from 1 April. They have both worked, in the past, for the Lindley Lodge Educational Trust. More recently Derek has been self-employed in property maintenance and Elizabeth has been Senior Residential Cook at Ripon College, Cuddesdon.

### Please note

Charles and Ivy Swan are now living at 115 leperstraat, Poperinge 8970, Belgium.

### **Farewell**

to Alan and Irene Robson, who have been lovingly running Alison House since June 1979. They have made numerous concrete improvements, such as the new office in the hall, and much decorating and refurbishing. They have promoted the Friends of Alison House and worked hard to promote the use of the house. They have provided excellent food, and, most importantly, they have made everyone welcome and created a relaxed, warm and friendly atmosphere. Many members hold very happy memories of times spent there during the past seven years. Perhaps the best tribute comes from Marjorie Berry who writes 'They have cared for and looked after Alison House as if it were their own. Can I say more?' We are very grateful, and wish them well in their retirement.



## Congratulations!

to Hannah Ruth Mayhew, born in February, and her parents Elizabeth and David.



### David Norris and the London Marathon



David Norris, a young member of the Hatters TAG, and the Pavilion TAG in Sheffield, is running in the London Marathon on Sunday, 20 April. He has run five half-marathons before and hopes to complete the race in under three hours. A group from the Sheffield TAGs are hoping to be in London to support him, and will be staying at the Toc H Community House in Newark Street, Whitechapel.

David has been involved in projects with deprived children and mentally handicapped children, and is seeking sponsorship to raise money for future Toc H projects.

Sponsor promises, or just straight donations, should be sent to either: David Norris, 187 Oakfield Rd, Sheffield S5 OTJ, or: Di Woodward, 116 Carterknowle Road, Sheffield S7 2DZ.

Gloucester Branch's donation to their local Venture Scouts is acknowledged, in concrete, on a water container built by the Scouts last summer, in Kenya, as part of a fresh water programme.

## Round and about

#### Unsung no longer?

Anstey Branch in Leicestershire have a proud record of work in their locality—as the local paper put it 'Many and various are the good works of Toc H members that go on, unsung, to brighten the lot of the old, young, infirm and underprivileged'.

They are currently concerned about the comfort of long-stay patients in local hospitals and have just presented two specially designed beds to the geriatric ward of Groby Road Hospital.

#### Getting it taped

We were much pleased to receive, airmail from Australia, a tape of January Point Three. Ted Geach, a member in Sydney NSW who helps produce talking books for the blind, has produced this as a 'pilot'. He is now planning to do it regularly — probably on a three monthly basis — for some blind members in Australia.

We do, of course, provide Braille copies of *Point Three* here in the UK, through the kindness of prisoners at Aylesbury Gaol. However, if there are blind or handicapped members who would appreciate a quarterly tape, can they please contact the Editor, and we'll see what can be arranged.

#### 'In touch' in Norwich

It is just over a year now since John Ames wrote to us about the Norwich 'In Touch' Youth Group. The group has changed considerably since December 1984. Several people have left Norwich, including John himself, to take up jobs elsewhere. So that they are now left with only one original member. Luckily they have been successful in recruiting new members, mostly friends but also people they have met through Toc H summer camps and on a good day usually attract about 13 to our meetings. If you then add to this a number of friends they can call on to help during activities, then the group is looking very healthy.

lan Carter writes: 'We have continued our involvement with a local children's home. In the last year we have played two more football matches with them (recording victories of 5-3 and 2-1), as well as taking part in several sports evenings (which we always lose). All events are keenly contested, but at the end of the evening there are no losers, only winners. Each time we return there old friendships are awakened and new

friendships made. We just hope the children enjoy themselves as much as we do, and that our friendships continue to flourish throughout 1986 and beyond.

They recently completed their third Christmas party for children as selected by a local NSPCC officer. Says Ian, 'Each year we arrive early to decorate the hall and each year within ten minutes of the children appearing the decorations are in tatters!'

In early September 1985 they organised a day trip for some more NSPCC children when they took them to Great Yarmouth Pleasure Beach and Oulton Broad (to watch power boat racing).

They have also spent several weekends at Toc H's newest centre, Mundesley House, where they combined social events with work. They have helped to clear up the gardens (cutting grass, trimming hedges, cutting down nettles etc), clean up the interior paintwork, and redecorate some of the bedrooms.

Whilst extending their contacts locally they also extended them nationally. In December 1984 three of them made a weekend visit to the Weymouth Beavers, whilst in April 1985 several went to Poachers Den for a leadership training weekend where they met people from the Yorkshire and Newcastle TAGs. They have also made new friends through Summer Camps, National Youth Weekends, by attending Central Council and of course through the Toc H Summer Festival.

Ian concludes: 'Having covered most things it just leaves the question of the future. There has been talk of our own project in 1987, so that could be something to look forward to. But, whatever we do, as long as we continue to develop friendships and relationships, both old and new, there will always be an active group in Norwich.'

#### Joint HQ in Rushden

The five Toc H Branches in Rushden, Northants, have pooled their resources to purchase their own Headquarters. They have bought a property for £10,000 and are now setting out to raise that sum. The building fund so far stands at £1,500 and there are all sorts of plans being made to raise the remainder.

However, the Branches have made it clear that these extra efforts will not detract from their regular jobs, which include emergency lights for the elderly, and visiting and entertaining at the towns sheltered housing complex.

#### New growth in Gwynedd

David Lloyd Williams writes to tell us of the very active Conway District, of which he is Chairman. As well as the usual programme of an annual Rededication Service and a District Dinner when 56 members sat down together, there are two new groups. One is an Action Group at Colwyn Bay, and the other the Brown Bread Action Group at Bangor, linked with the Centre at Port Penrhyn. So, five Branches, one District Branch and two young groups gives a most encouraging picture.

#### Singing in the Rainham?

The Wigmore and Rainham Branch Annual Toc H Party and Dance was again held in January and resulted in over £300 profit. This is being donated to the Rainham (Gillingham) Red Cross Ambulance Fund with whom the Branch works closely, apart from 10% which will be forwarded to the Family Purse.

A great night was enjoyed by all (140 friends attended), and included games, competitions, dancing and a magnificent buffet supper laid on by the Ladies Branch.

#### ... and briefly

Stowmarket (W) Branch held a Christmas Whist Drive to raise money for Christmas Parcels and were able to take out 50 parcels to people living alone and needy cases, some referred by a local Doctor, so they really helped the most deserving cases. The 'goodies' included ham, salmon, mince-pies, puddings and chocolate.

Well done to Nailsea (M) Branch whose recent membership drive has brought in five new faces.

# A Day Out?

Are you planning a day out on the South Coast this year? If so Bognor Regis (J) Branch would be delighted to offer facilities and hospitality to any group — young, old or handicapped — organised by any Toc H Branch. Contact Grace on Bognor 821946.

## now available from HQ a Free Leaflet with details of:



#### RESIDENTIAL LEISURE ACTIVITIES 1986

HOLIDAY WEEK 5-12 July Port Penrhyn is Toc H's own Centre meets the Menai Straits it is in one The Centre offers a variety of wate

both Snowdonia and a chance to walk, en a spot in the sun artists, bird-watchy everything, except (reduction for chil £10 booking Oxford OX9 1 a Reech P

cituated where Silve country. PAINTING AND MUSIC (a) 19-26 July (b) 25 Oct- 1 Nov

These long-running weeks are still very successful. You don't have to be an expert artist or musician - the readiness to have a go is all that's needed. If you enjoy pleasant surroundings, good food and good company, and would like to avisting ones, either of these weeks

EXPLORING DARTMOOR ON FOOT 7-12 April Come and see Dartmoor in the spring and stay at our lovely old Toc H leisurely mile of genuinely water

WEEKEND WITHOUT WORDS 30 May · 1 June be a choice of a full day's walk or a more How much do we all rely on talking? This unusual weekend aims to gather a variety of people together to explore different ways in which we can communicate with and

provision of ower charges

Cost £13, including £5

c H, Lindridge House,

Q12 3QE (Tel: 0626

A LITTLE OF WHAT YOU FANCY! 26-30 August

Each person who comes undertakes to run a session for a morning, afternoon or the E1 2AA (Tel: 0people offers the group. You can do literally anything

exercise, indoors or out, Toc H re including £10 booking fee as de

MICHAELMAS WEEKEND 26-2

Quiet weekends give people a cha some time in prayer and refle experiences. You don't have to b are welcome. Cost £27.50. For

including £5 booking fee as depoother people and you do a little COLSTERDALE OPEN WEEKEND 20-22 June

This weekend offers an opportunity for individuals or small groups to come and of Colsterdale. Whilst participants will be free to do as they ioin in and share the experience of being with

enjoy PRACTICAL DRAMA WEEKEND 26-28 September

please A chance to have a bash at some talking exercises, movement and improvisation.

Absolutely no skill or experience is required and you won't have to 'navignos'. pleasy A chance to have a pash at some talking exercises, movement and improvisation other.

Absolutely no skill or experience is required and you won't have to 'perform' liftle Oliviore but to have -Hey Oxford OX little Oliviers but to have You'll pick up some

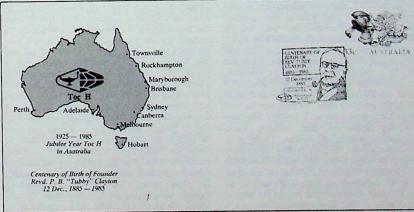
SUMMER SCHOOL 12-19 July

The annual Summer School will be led by Rev Colin Rudd who will give four main talks during the week. There will be other talks and discussions and a whole day out mid-week exploring the countryside on the Derbyshire and Staffordshire borders. Plenty of free time as well. Cost £67, plus a £5 Conference fee. Enquiries and bookings to: Cyril H Carrier, 367 Hungerford Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 1EZ.

## **Tubby Clayton Centenary** Envelope

A few of these envelopes - a unique collectors item - are still available from: Raoul (Roy) Nieper, Hon Area Commissioner, Toc H Queensland, 5 Sheehy Street, Stafford, Queensland Cost \$1.00 4053, Australia. (Australian) post included. Min order 5. Cash with order please.

All profits will go to Toc H work in Australia.



## We will Remember...

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In 1985

Leslie J Durrell (South East Hants District)

In November

Albert C Hubling (Camberwell & Dulwich), Leslie Rescorle (Looe)

In December

Thomas H Hendry (Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay), Doris E M Hunnybun (Newport (IOW))

In January

Dick Bathgate (Jedburgh), Amy Betts (Poole), Reginald Boulton (Tetbury), Leslie W Harding (Maidstone Swan), Gertrude J Houghton (Tetbury), A M 'Nancy' James (Merthyr Tydfil), Thomas R Mungall (Jedburgh), Eunice C Schofield (Paddock), Alfred Smith (Walsall), Enid M Tanner (Tetbury), Stella Trodd (Southampton), Norah M Tyzack (Warwickshire District)

In February

W Andrew Cain (Codsall), T R 'Dick' Chapman (Goring by Sea), Sir G Miles Clifford KBE CMG (Tunbridge Wells District), R J 'Jim' Farrow (Hitchin), Lilian B Florance (Shirehampton), Vera C Hurrell (Grays), John Jenkins (Ramsgate & Newington), Francis S Mundy (West Somerset District), Charles R 'Bob' Purves (Loughton), Alice M Tatem (Wolverhampton), Dorothy Walpole (Clacton on Sea), Robert J Watkins (Budleigh Salterton).

Sir G Miles Clifford, KBE, CHG.

There could be no better example of Tubby's ability to tap for the benefit of the Movement someone in the top flight than his seizure of Sir G Miles Clifford, a Trustee of Toc H, who died in February.

He first met Tubby when his Unit was at rest near Poperinge (after Passchendaele) in 1917. In the interval till their next meeting at Gibraltar in 1942, Miles had joined the Colonial Service in Nigeria and after a distinguished career there had commanded the Nigeria Defence Force in Europe from 1938 to 1942. He was then posted to Gibraltar as Colonial Secretary and while there had Tubby as a house guest for a month along with Alec Paterson. Miles was posted as Governor and Commanderin-Chief on the Falklands 1946-1954 and while there appealed to Tubby to find one or two dependable young men as Travelling Teachers to service some of the outlying Farm Communities which, of course, Tubby did. They corresponded frequently and when next they met in 1956 it was at the old Toe H HQ and at Tubby's flat. Soon after he was asked by Tubby to volunteer as Vicar's Warden at an inner London church, which he did for several years. Tubby at that time appointed him to the Central Executive on which he served for some

years until his duties as Director of the Leverhulme Trust forced him to withdraw. He remained in touch until Tubby died and was instrumental in persuading him NOT to sell the old HQ for £220,000, which he had been advised to do, as he was convinced that it was worth very much more — as proved to be the

When Tubby died, Miles joined the Tubby Clayton Memorial Trust chaired by George Liddle and strongly supported its assistance of Ordinands for both C of E and Free Church and was associated with this for the rest of his life.

Little known to his friends in Toc H was Miles' interest in the Antarctic and Medical Research. Before becoming a Vice-President of the Royal Geographical Society he had been on the committee of a Trans Antarctic Expedition in 1954 and was later Chairman of the British National Committee for Antarctic Research. No less was his contribution to medical research; Who's Who lists his many services on Medical Research bodies. Toc H was privileged to have had as a Trustee a member whose public services at home and abroad covered such a diverse field.

G Davis

Mabs Coe was one of the longest serving members in the West Midlands, and remained as active as ever until hospitalised after a fall. She helped set up Sheldon House for Homeless Girls and retained her interest in that throughout. She will be missed by many friends.

Nora Tyzack was deeply involved in a host of local activities including Toc H, Mothers Union etc. George Lee writes that 'she was not only a most loveable person but herself extended love and caring particularly towards those privileged to share her friendship or to seek her wise counsel or help.

Fred Smith was a member at Walsall for about 25 years and was greatly admired by us all for his cheerful fortitude.

He was very badly wounded in 1918, and carried scraps of shrapnel in his body until his death. He spent many years in hospitals, had numerous operations, and we feel that it is a miracle that he survived until such a great age, 87 years. His sister Flo helped — she cared for him tirelessly. We give thanks for his life.

Lilian Florance

Introduced to Alison Macfie by her brother, Lilian joined the League of Women Helpers in 1922 as a founder member. With five friends she immediately became involved in running a canteen for the Wimbledon Toc H Boys' Club. By 1925 she and Kathleen Owen had formed the Wimbledon LWH Branch, which worked closely with the Toc H Branch. Lilian was the youngest member of the first LWH Secretaries' Conference in 1925, where she was involved with the formulation of the first LWH Constitution. In 1935 Lilian and her husband, also in Toc H, moved first to Yeovil and then to Bridgwater where they provided a Somerset 'base' for Tubby, and hospitality for travelling staff. She held office in various capacities at all local levels, and served as Central Councillor for three terms. In 1983 Lilian moved to Bristol, transferring to Shirehampton Branch, where she quickly proved to be a valuable asset. Severely deaf herself, she became the local

Faith in the City?

The Archbishop of

Canterbury's Commission Report

on Urban Priority Areas

David Mayhew

We live, work, and worship in an urban priority area in Tyneside. We therefore rejoice at the serious attention the Report gives to the issues faced by Church and State in such areas. I expected the Report to be well written and presented, to be well provided with statistics, and to be in the tradition of liberal social concern. I was not disappointed. I further expected the Report to be weaker when considering Christine doctrine, and in examining spiritual poverty — its causes and cure. My expectations were again fulfilled, though not to the extent I feared.

Improving our housing, benefits system. distribution of jobs, schools, health service, and other challenges - all are vital. However, because these issues are rarely seen in the context of the personal renewal of all those involved, efforts to address them are constantly and seriously undermined. Tubby's criticism (viz 'Fishers of Men' pp 1-2) of a faith which stirs the heart but not the will is as relevant to political as to religious affairs. Political campaigning that is a substitute for personal transformation leads to salvation for nobody. This dimension is not given sufficient weight and attention in the Report, though it is present. The list of recommendations in the Report illustrates this point.

There is much valuable material for developing church and government policy, but no emphasis on prayer, preaching, and local personal action. There are no more than half a dozen recommendations to local UPA (Urban Priority Area) parishes themselves — still less their parishioners, out of a total of 61.

pioneer on behalf of the scheme for Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, enlisting the help of her Church and Toe H friends, and becoming a well-known speaker with her little dog in attendance.

We remember with affection and gratitude Lilian's whole-hearted devotion to Toc H, the contribution of her lively and energetic mind, and the harmony generated by the warmth of her friendship and her ever-ready kindly humour.

CB

We give thanks for their lives

Notwithstanding this, there are at least ten important proposals of particular significance to Toc H.

The recommendations are firstly to the Church of England, and secondly to the nation:



To the Church of England

Recommendation 10: 'The appropriate Church voluntary bodies should consider how schemes for voluntary service in UPAs could be extended to widen the age-range of those eligible, and to allow for part-time as well as full-time volunteering'.

In many of our cities Toc H is already engaged in promoting voluntary service among all age groups. In Newcastle over 500 unemployed volunteers of all ages were involved in our UNCANDUIT project between April and October 1985. The current concern in Toc H about project development should take on board this recommendation of the Report and suggest some effective response to it.

Recommendation 25: 'A Church Urban Fund should be established to strengthen the Church's presence and promote the Christian witness in UPAs.'

How about each Toc H Region taking on board a commitment to challenge all those churches with which it has some contact in more prosperous areas to donate 10% of their income to this Fund? Hollow laughter?

Remember that since 1979 those in employment have seen their earnings rise much faster than inflation, and those receiving state benefits have lost out. Remember that the report reveals that members of inner-city churches contribute financially a greater amount than those in more affluent churches (viz Report p37).

Recommendation 27: 'Churches should take part in initiatives to engage unemployed people in UPAs in job-creating projects. The use of church premises for this purpose must be encouraged'.

Recommendation 28: 'The Church should build on good practice in ministry to unemployed people. Industrial Mission has an important role to play here'.

Only last November at our Central Council we decided to explore joint initiatives with Church Action With The Unemployed.

These explorations are proceeding apace, and it is to be hoped that next year's Central Council will have some definite proposals before it.

Recommendation 29: 'We recommend the use of properly trained social workers working with local churches and neighbourhood groups as an important part of the total ministry of the Church in the UPAs'.

Recommendation 32: 'Discussions should be held between the General Synod Board for Social Responsibility and the British Council of Churches Community Work Advisory Committee with a view to strengthening the national support networks for community work. The Church of England should be prepared to devote central resources to this end'.

Here is a clear opportunity for Toc H. We must not be drawn into sterile debate over the professionalisation of welfare. and the essentially voluntary and personal character of the Toc H approach. Ken Prideaux-Brune surely reflects a proper balance in his account of Peter East's involvement in the East End ('A Kind of Love Affair' price £2, from Publications Department, Toc H HQ). He acknowledges the value and importance of professional training, but balances this with Peter's own example. 'He was not set apart from people but was in process of learning alongside them . . . More fundamental is the fact that the people he worked with were not his clients but his friends. They were people he wanted to spend time with, to share his life with '(viz pp 81-3).

Toc H's ambition must surely be to be among those demonstrating that a combination of professional expertise and self-giving in the name of Christ is both possible and desirable in the welfare of our communities, both urban and rural.

Recommendation 33: 'Additional Church sponsored urban studies centres for teacher training should be established'.

Could not a number of proposals be profitably combined here? City life is complex. Too often the most effective networks are criminal ones, and care is over-specialised and divided. Teacher training, clergy training, community work, local job creation, and training of unemployed people, for example, could all be provided from the same base.

The link between these different activities would be a common Christian foundation, and commitment to the study and service of our neighbour in a particular neighbourhood. We are not too far from this if we are prepared to consider joint development of projects such as some of our community houses, Friendship Circles, and Uncanduit—along lines similar to work being developed in parishes like All Saints, Nottingham (viz article by LTV Mark Beach in *Point Three*, May 1985).

Recommendation 38: 'The General Synod's Board of Education, in consultation with Diocesan Youth Officers, should move towards a national strategy for the Church's work with young people in UPAs, and initiate and support work specifically in these areas'.

Again, the current review of project development is relevant here. Toc H's commitment to work with young people is vital in urban priority areas where so many people live. We need to reflect on the different approaches to involving young people adopted by Peter East and our current Project Programme — which by its nature tends to involve only a certain type of young person in responsibility for its development.

There, then, are some of the key recommendations to the Church of England which, I believe, have relevance to Toc H.

They are best set in the context of the Full Report, or at least the Summary.\*

\* \* \*

I was not asked to write on the recommendations to the Government. However, here are three which we should surely recognise and support:

Recommendation 5: 'There should be a new deal between government and the voluntary sector, to provide long-term continuity and funding for recognised voluntary bodies working alongside statutory agencies.'

Recommendation 10: 'The Community Programme should be expanded to provide 500,000 places'.

Recommendation 21: 'Local authorities in Boroughs which include UPAs should, with other agencies, develop policies to establish and sustain community work with adequate resources'.

#### \* \* \*

Do not be satisfied with reading this article. The descriptive material in the Report itself is too extensive to summarise and very helpfully puts the recommendations in context. Despite my reservations expressed above, the bulk of proposals made, if applied, would enable Toc H members and countless others to translate their concern for our major social issues into more effective personal service in our urban priority areas.

<sup>\*</sup> Summaries available from: Christian Action, St Peter's House, 308 Kennington Lane, London SE11 5HY. Tel: 01 735 2372 at £1 per copy plus p & p.

# THE ABBEYR

Worldwide, over the next 20 years, the proportion of elderly will increase markedly while the number of younger people will become correspondingly smaller. In the future, the transition from a youthful to an ageing population structure is expected to be much more rapid in the developing countries than it has, so far, been in the developed countries. The proportional increase will, however, be much more dramatic in the older ranges. In Great Britain, for example, it is estimated the number of people aged 85 and older will increase, from 1979 to 2000, by 48%. The United Nations has drawn attention to this trend and The Abbeyfield Society (which is, in fact, a federation of over 560 autonomous local societies concerned with the provision of accommodation for the lonely and frail elderly in the UK) is

concerned to share its experience with interested groups in other countries and, to facilitate this, has formed an Abbeyfield Abroad Working Party to deal with queries and to provide assistance wherever possible. Interest in the Abbeyfield concept has been expressed in European continental countries and Societies have already been established in Australia, South Africa, Eire and Canada.

Local Abbeysield Societies manage family-sized houses, where seven to nine elderly residents have their own bedsitting-room, normally situated close to shops, places of worship and other community buildings. Residents look after their own rooms, furnish them with their own belongings, lead their own lives and come together for the main meals of the day, which are prepared by the resident

housekeeper who, also, provides the supportive care that it is expected would be provided to an elderly relative in a normal family environment. Abbeyfield houses provide a balance of privacy and companionship, and of security and independence, for the lonely and frail elderly who would otherwise be alone and at risk.

The Abbeyfield Society has been concerned with the provision of accommodation for the lonely and frail elderly in Great Britain since its foundation. The Society was formed in 1956 after Major Richard Carr-Gomm had, the previous year, resigned his commission in the Coldstream Guards and started to do social work in Bermondsey, then one of the poorest, dockland, areas of London. Rather as



The purpose built supportive house at Birstall and Wanlip, Leics.

## John Wotton - Abbeyfield Abroad Officer

Florence Nightingale had found in the Crimea, where her strongest nurses (at least initially) were needed at the washingtub, Major Carr-Gomm found the most needed, practical work he could do was that of 'home-help' - cleaning, washing and scrubbing for handicapped of the area who were no longer able to do these things for themselves. He, thus, met a large number of people who were unable to take care of themselves adequately. The majority were elderly but they were all lonely. He recognised they were, also, fiercely independent.

Pondering the problems of loneliness. Major Carr-Gomm conceived the idea of bringing together a group of 4-7 lonely people to form an unrelated 'family unit'. with a housekeeper to look after the communal areas of the house and to provide the residents with two meals a day. Residents would receive the gentle support they needed and yet their own bed-sitting-room would be their own 'home within a house', thus preserving their independence. (Nowadays, residents are expected to keep their own rooms clean and tidy as it is recognised 'gentle support' should include some stimulation and challenge, which makes for mental well-being, as well as physical activity.) Eventually, this concept was proved to work and it was found that when the elderly are relieved of the burden of providing warmth, security and food for themselves, they remain active for longer than they might have otherwise done and, in the majority of cases, health either improves or a deterioration in health is arrested. But, before four residents for the first Abbeyfield House could be found, Major Carr-Gomm had to ask over 80 people (who he knew to be lonely and not managing very well to look after themselves), and two of those four dropped out before the house actually opened.

Major Carr-Gomm had been meeting other interested people in a Methodist manse in Abbeyfield Road - hence the title of the Society - but the first house was actually in Eugenia Road. The house quickly proved to be successful; within three months of opening it was full, with a housekeeper and two men and two women residents. Within the first two years six houses were opened, all in Bermondsey, and the 26 residents had an average age of nearly 80. Major Carr-Gomm recalled, in his autobiography 'Push on the Door', it was during these formative years that he was invited to



Residents and housekeeper sit down to a meal.

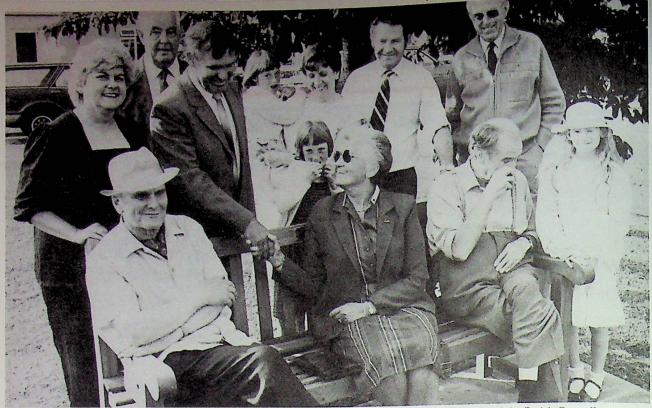
lunch at Tower Hill by Rev Tubby Clayton who had remarked that old people like himself were on the departure platform of life and must be ready when the train came in to take them away. 'Tubby' Clayton already had a knowledge of the work of The Abbeyfield Society and was pleased the Society encouraged young people to visit the older ones in the houses.

Abbeyfield Houses provide professional nursing, merely the 'home nursing' that would be provided to an elderly member in the house of the average family. In the early days of the Society, it was expected that Government geriatric services would develop to take care of those residents who became too frail to remain in an Abbeyfield supportive house. These services failed to develop as anticipated and, almost as a matter of natural evolution, the Society developed 'Extra Care' houses. The concept of a large family unit, as opposed to an institution, was preserved, as far as possible, but the number of residents in Extra Care houses had to be increased to allow the additional professional staff employed to be fully utilised. With one exception, though, these Extra Care houses have less than 25 residents and, although it is found that something like one in five residents of supportive houses need to move on to Extra Care, again professional nursing is not provided. The principle which the Society strives for is to provide the standard of care that a loving daughter would give to an elderly parent but, with staff employed around the clock, to provide it 24 hours a day.

Abbeyfield supportive houses developed to fill a need which was not being filled by other organisations (either State or private). The Society has adopted a flexible approach to developments affecting the lonely, frail elderly, be they advances in medical science, changes in government funding policies or technical developments. In this way, Extra Care houses evolved. Relatively recently, a cause for loneliness which would not have been alleviated in the average supportive house was identified. People from a foreign country who had moved to England somewhat late in life and were unable to speak English adequately seemed in danger of becoming more isolated in old age than their contemporaries who spoke English fluently. To overcome a particular, identified problem in London, and with strong support from the Polish community, one house has already been established (and another will soon open) which will be basically, but not exclusively, for Polish-speaking residents.

The Abbeyfield Abroad Working Party is, therefore, interested in hearing of any areas outside Great Britain where there is a need for Abbeyfield-type accommodation for the lonely and frail elderly who are either unable or unwilling to continue living alone and where there exist groups of people who are prepared to volunteer their services to establish and continue to run such accommodation.

The Abbeyfield Society Head Office is at 186-192 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 1AB.



Mrs P Scarbro, Chairman of Coningsby Branch, tries out the seat as she presents it to the Chairman of the Parish Council.

# CHILD ABUSE -is this one answer?

Muriel Jones

Many people have been deeply disturbed by tragic cases of cruelty to children in recent months. Some cases have resulted in the death of the child at the hands of an adult relative. The subsequent inquiries have brought Local Authority social workers before the scrutiny of the public, and their apparent shortcomings have brought blame and distrust on the profession of social work.

As a retired social worker I have been asking myself how this situation has arisen when so much money is being spent on the Social Services and the training of social workers. Why do these terrible instances of child abuse happen now, when we have advanced so much in knowledge and in the facilities offered to young parents?

I believe we must look back on the history of child care provision during the last 40 years — but how we see history repeating itself! Until 1948 the care of deprived and homeless children in this country was still governed by the Elizabethan Poor Relief Act of 1601, which meant that they lived in the Public

Assistance Institution. True, the first Children Act of 1908 and the important Children and Young Persons Act of 1933 went far in separating the care of neglected children from the Poor Law. The first embodied measures for infant life protection, penalties for wilful cruelty and for the training of young offenders. The second imposed further duties on Local Education Authorities in caring for children brought before Juvenile Courts. Nevertheless, for 347 years the responsibility for the care of all other neglected and homeless children remained with the Public Assistance Department.

No legislation at this time provided for rehabilitating the family or restoring the child to parents, or fostering. Only the great voluntary societies were pioneering experiments in child care which deeply affected the administration of the Poor Law.

Towards the end of the war came an event which profoundly disturbed public opinion and led to a new Act of Parliament which altered the concept of

the care of deprived children. Four children removed from their parents by the NSPCC in 1939, and committed to the care of the Local Authority, were placed in foster homes, in accordance with the Authority's statutory duty. In 1944, after a succession of foster homes, two of the brothers were placed in a lonely farmhouse in the area of another Authority. Here they were so neglected and ill-treated that, in January 1945, one of the boys died. The enquiry revealed a serious lack of supervision by the two Local Authorities concerned. This led to the setting up of the Curtis Commission in 1945, with powers to inspect and report Children's Homes and foster homes. The result was the Children Act of 1948, one of the most progressive and humane in all our social legislation. Until 1948 children who were homeless, deprived, neglected or offenders were the responsibility of three Local Authority Departments - the Education Department, the Public Assistance Department and the Health Department. The Act of 1948 called into being an entirely new Department, the Children's Department, and laid on Local Authorities the duty of



is a state of mind
not a time of life
It is a quality of the imagination
a temper of the will
a conquest by courage of timidity
a preference for adventure rather than ease.

You grow old
not by having birthdays
but by deserting ideals.
Passing years may wrinkle the skin
but lost enthusiasms wrinkle the soul
and only a wrinkled soul
makes an old man.

You are as young as your faith
and as old as your doubts;
as young as your self-confidence
and as old as your fears;
as young as your hopes
and as old as your despairs.

You are young
as long as your imagination is open to receive
messages of
cheer, courage, power and splendour
from men and from God.

You are old indeed,
when the central places of your heart are covered
by the snows of pessimism
and the ice of cynicism.

Help me therefore, Lord to live everyday of my life As though I might live forever.

Amen

A copy of this poem was seen by the Editor pinned up at the Toc H hall in Maryborough during the World Chain of Light. If any reader knows it source please let us know so that we may make proper acknowledgement.

appointing qualified staff for it. It opened windows on to a whole new world of opportunity for children in care, and of training and enlightenment for the child care workers.

#### The 1948 Act

I saw the beginnings of work under this new Act, and the spirit which pervaded it, because I worked in one of the first Children's Departments from 1948. The children in care, and also those still in their own families but needing special attention, were the sole objects of our concern. There was a drive for new foster homes and for foster parents of greater insight and sympathy. We had heavy caseloads and worked long hours, but the inspiration behind it can be summed up in a sentence from the Act: 'Where a child is in the care of the Local Authority it shall be the duty of that Authority to exercise their powers with respect to him so as to further his best interests, and to afford him opportunity for the proper development of his character and abilities'.

As time went on child care workers felt the need to be able to do more materially to enable children to return home, and more to help parents in times of stress so that the children need never be received into care at all. These aims were largely inspired by growing fears about the effects of long-term residential care and of maternal deprivation. More preventive work was done, as it is being done today, but the important point is that at that

time — the 1950s and 60s — it was done by Children's Department staff, that is, social workers trained in child care and working solely in that field. Work with the mentally ill, the physically handicapped and the elderly was the responsibility of the Mental Health and Welfare Departments.

#### The 1970 Changes

All this was changed by the Social Services Act of 1970, passed as a result of the recommendations of the Seebohm Report. Under this Act all departments dealing with social work in Local Authorities were merged into one new the Children's department, and Departments as such ceased to exist. The workers in all three Departments were expected to undertake generalised social work with the mentally ill, the handicapped, the elderly and with deprived children, no matter what their training and previous experience had been. Needless to say, this was a difficult period and a testing experience for many people. Some left the service altogether, feeling unable to cope with social work for which they had neither training nor inclination.

I would suggest that much of the present malaise in the Social Services can be traced to the mistaken notion in the Social Services Act that all social workers should be expected to work with people whose needs are entirely different. The great success of the voluntary societies is due to the fact that they set out to help

a particular section of society only, and concentrated on the needs of those people.

I would suggest that the remedy is a return to one Department in Local Authorities dealing with child care only, or alternatively, a section in the Social Services departments dealing exclusively with children and staffed by workers trained in child care. I am sure that social workers today are as hard-working and dedicated as ever, but their energies are diffused between the different obligations they must meet.

Perhaps in former times we made mistakes by being too ready to keep children in care, and there was a strong reaction against this; perhaps today the pendulum has swung too far the other way. Not for a moment should we lose sight of the ideal that families should be kept together wherever possible, but neither should we fail to put the child's welfare first, so that when a child is clearly at risk the social worker is free to act.

In one recent tragic case of a child's death, the social worker concerned had never understood that the prime responsibility was to the child, not the parents. Could this have happened in the days of the Children's Departments? Without being complacent over our record, I think it is unlikely. For the sake of children at risk, and of their social workers, I hope the present situation will be remedied.

# Memoirs of Tubby

A full transcript of the Editor's interview with the Rt Rev Cuthbert Bardsley about Tubby — a large piece of which appeared in December *Point Three* — is now available, free, from Headquarters.

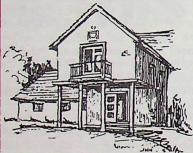
Please send a 12p stamped and addressed envelope 9" x 4" to The Editor, and mark the envelope 'Memories of Tubby'.

## Unemployment Sunday

A time to think and pray about Unemployment.

For further details, contact: Church Action with the Unemployed, 318 St Paul's Road, London N1 2LF Telephone: 01 359 8403.

### Cuddesdon House



## Cook Wanted

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## Open Forum

#### The ordination of women

Every month I look forward to receiving my copy of *Point Three* and every month I am not disappointed in its contents. Some of the articles I agree with, some I don't. But they all make me think. Good.

This month (February) I read with especial interest Ken Prideaux-Brune's article on the General Synod, and in particular his comments about the ordination of women to the Priesthood

in the Church of England.

We know that the mind of Christ is that we should show a United Front to the world. Our differences as Christians are a disgrace to us all. How can we witness to the World when we ourselves are split on so many issues. One thing is certain; the admission of women to the Sacred Ministry at this time will cause further disunity; in my opinion it will split the Church of England from top to bottom. Therefore, since that is most certainly NOT the mind of Christ, I just cannot agree with the admission of women to the Priesthood. It will most certainly postpone any chance of visible unity with the Church of Rome, and unity with the Orthodox Church would be deferred indefinitely. Is it worth it? Women do such valuable work in the Church today. I don't mean just in arranging flowers or cleaning brass - I mean in leading us in the Spiritual Life, in Retreats, Convents, arranging ministering to the sick; work they do in many cases so much better than men. I myself always make my annual Retreat at a Convent.

I think that in time we may well be thankful for women priests, but at this juncture in time, I cannot help thinking that it would be wrong.

Finally I quote from a report of the Oxford Conference 'Is there a Catholic Future for the Church of England' held last Autumn.

'The spirit of the Oxford Conference was very encouraging. There was an encouraging atmosphere of Catholic unity despite the different backgrounds, and the overwhelming feeling was the knowledge that the ordination of women in the Church of England would tear our Church into many different factions.'

In case anyone might think that I am a reactionary diehard, I would say that one reason why I joined Toc H in 1927 was because I was even then fed up with denominational religion, and although I am an Anglican priest, one of my great joys is to conduct a service in the United Reformed Church!

Arthur Collins Southampton I feel that I must write to say how impressed I was to read the 'Guest Editorial', by Ken Prideaux-Brune, about the General Synod of the Church of England, and the Ordination of Women into the Ministry of the Church.

What a good job 'Tubby' did not hold this view about women becoming members of the Toc H Movement. They have proved beyond doubt how valuable, and necessary the two have been, and still are, to our Movement.

It appears to me that some of those in 'High Office' in the Church of England are rather like the Three Wise Men in Frank Topping's article 'Athelderus', in the same issue.

They appear to have got their eyes set on the Star, and looking up Heavenwards, so becoming too 'Heavenly Minded', to be of much 'Earthly Use'.

Maybe they need another Tubby to reset their compass towards building friendships across the barriers which are dividing men from women, and Church from Church, and so work for the 'Kingdom of God' on earth.

Percy Cheshire Woking

Ken Prideaux-Brune makes apology, at the end of his Guest Editorial in February, for introducing the subject of ordination of women in a journal for Christians of all kinds. I think it is a pity that he has because he surely must realise that it is extremely difficult to put forward the contrary point of view to such a readership. Nevertheless I think it should be attempted. I know Free Church people very well and I know they won't have any feeling of sympathy with what I have to say. I only ask that they will believe that we do believe what we say we believe. But I would not have introduced the subject myself.

The first point is that it is a controversy not about the nature of women (or of men) but of the Church. It is our belief that in Apostolic and Sub-Apostolic times (that is up to about 200 AD) the main form or forms of the Church were ordered and stabilised, as those features which would enable the Church to be recognised as the Church. Among the forms was the Ministry, and although there were plenty of fine women about (eg St Perpetua) whom they could have ordained if they had thought it right to do so, they did not ordain any. It was round about the same period that the Canon of the New Testament was established - but who would now think of adding a Fifth Gospel?

Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

I cannot grasp the antithesis between the Church as a genuine community and a hierarchical institution; surely it can be both. If women were to become priests, and some of them became bishops, they themselves would be part of the hierarchical structure.

Those of us who gave our assents to the Book of Common Prayer and the Articles (some of us 50 years ago) did so believing that the Church of England was a part of the Church Catholic. If this change were introduced, we should find the ground on which we gave our assents cut from under our feet.

Richard Cole Cardiff

#### The £25 target

We were rather disturbed by the contents of the letter received from R E Broomfield (Hon Treasurer). He says the Movement is currently spending £959 a day more than we receive. It seems suicidal to continue in this matter. We therefore suggest a drastic cut in projects and new houses until we have the finance to maintain them. Every Branch has to live within its means and this should also apply to the Central Administration.

One phrase in particular was most significant, to quote 'I'm not suggesting that the Movement is in imminent danger of winding up for lack of funds'. So there is a danger, this is the first time we have seen anything in print suggesting even the possibility of winding up. If Toc H ever winds up it will be for lack of members and this is what projects do not appear to producing. Often there is not sufficient publicity to let the public know that these are Toc H projects. More effort needs to be put into how to increase the membership, which would also result in a brighter financial position. Perhaps Toc H needs remodelling to cope with modern society. Can our best brains be put to work on this problem as a priority over high cost projects?

Ray Goodway (and all the members of)
Shirehampton (M) Branch

#### Point Three

I read in the February issue of Larry Holt-Kentwell's suggestion that the Movement make a free issue for six months to those interested in Toc H but not quite sure what it is all about.

With the cost of Point Three being what it is I would strongly recommend to members who know of these so called 'nibblers' or others who are willing to learn a little more of the Movement

that they themselves take out subscriptions at the 'enormous' cost of £2 per annum and add an amount for postage (in part) say of £1 and have them sent out so as to make the many activities of members of the Movement more widely known.

William Parker Sevenoaks

#### The presentation problem

What a joy it was to see Tubby as large as life in December's *Point Three* and what an inspiration it would be to have him kept before us from his centenary year on.

'Toc H, the Clayton Fellowship' would be a much easier title to explain than just 'Toc H', a person can be recalled and described in a way a title cannot.

To those who know of Toc H outside the membership, it is a relic of the Great War as — by the average age of so many of us — are it's members! By the time one has talked of the signallers' 'Toc H', one can see the eyes glazing and attention flagging!

If, as well as this addition to our title, we used Barclay Baron's 'To Conquer Hate', people meeting Toc H for the first time would have a good idea of who we are and what we are about.

Toc H has meant so much to so many of us, it could mean so much to so many more if we could make it's presentation easier.

Cyril Warner Malvern

#### Friendship Circles

I have read with interest the description of work being undertaken by the Friendship Circles in various parts of the country, and the suggestion that these should be developed widely.

It would seem to me that the Friendship Circle tends to work in parallel with MIND, the Mental Health Association. I am Chairman of the Droitwich Group of MIND, which has been active in this area for some ten years, forming part of the Worcestershire Association for Mental Health, with a number of other Groups spread throughout the county.

We have a well established MIND Day Centre, meeting three days each week, a Drop-in Club on Sunday afternoons open to any lonely person, also a Group Home. Our work is recognised by the local Health Authority and grants are received to assist us. We also raise a considerable sum of money

annually from appeals to the public locally.

I am also Secretary of our Droitwich Branch of Toc H, and I would welcome clarification as to whether our Branch should try to commence a Friendship Circle, when MIND would seem to be doing the same work. I know that MIND is well established throughout the country, and has Support Groups organised as Ann Crouch describes.

Would it not be wiser for Toc H to co-operate with MIND rather than set up a new organisation engaged in similar work with like aims?

Graham Robinson
Droitwich Spa

Editorial Comment: We asked Ann Crouch to respond to this at once and she writes as follows:

'I am pleased this issue has been raised, as it is a question which has been asked by others. I am very aware of the work which MIND does, as I am a member of MIND and serve on the Northern MIND Executive Committee.

'When I am considering work in a new area, one of the first contacts I make is with the local MIND group, to find out what they are doing and to get their views on what Toc H intends to do. So far, I have found them most helpful, and the first to admit that the needs in the mental health field are so many and so varied that there is room for both of us.

'In the two new areas, Buckinghamshire and Darlington, there is close co-operation, as there is in Cleveland. However, the concept and mode of operation of Friendship Circles is different to that of MIND in those areas. In these MIND groups there is a central point to which the mentally ill come over a wide area; Friendship Circles are dispersed much more locally among the community. They are, in essence, self-help groups based on Toc H principles, the Four Points of the Compass. Unlike many MIND groups we do not use volunteers to run the group. In a Friendship Circle everyone is a member on equal terms, regardless of his or her mental history. Toc H members who have no history of mental illness can join, but as equal members in a Toc H group that is first and foremost an expression of Toc H.'

#### PTO!

Just two comments about the appointment of a Personnel and Training Officer.

Hurrah! and at last!

Jim Lewis Glenrothes contd p14/ 13

## Open Forum continued

We reserve the right to edit letters.

Only letters with full name and address will be considered for publication.

#### The Old House

Although I agree with A E Bowyer's comments about each member digging into their pockets and finding five pounds to go towards an appeal to save the Old House, I can't help but think that this would be a complete waste of time and resources of somebody in the Movement whether it be a member of staff or not, for the following reason.

I travel around a lot doing various Toc H activities, so obviously get to know a fair amount of what goes on and of a number of people's views. Recently, the Branches received a letter from Rodney Broomfield, saying that the suggested amount for each member to contribute to Family Purse should be increased to £25 from £15. Some members within the Movement are still finding it difficult to raise £15 and cribbed at the thought of paying £25 with a reply of 'what is Wendover doing with the money, we never see any of it come back in this direction'. For me, £25 a year is not a lot to pay for a Movement that means so much to me, and which gives me back far more than the money I spend on it, besides the membership fee.

When I think of the apathy of some of the membership regarding the money side of the Movement, which we all hold very dear, or so everyone tells me, I can't help but think that any other appeal is a sheer waste of time. First of all, we have to get the amount of giving to Family Purse right, because, without that, there might not be a Movement in which we can make an appeal to help other aspects of Toc H like Talbot House. Following on from that, surely £25 a year is not too much for any Branch to raise per member. After all, I measure the amount I give by how much the Movement really means to me, and Toc H means a tremendous amount to me.

This might sound a little hypocritical. I agree with the sentiments of an appeal for Talbot House, but I really feel that the general response will be pretty poor. Let's hope I am wrong.

Matthew Plumridge Guildford

There is much debate taking place at present about the future of the Old House — what its role should be in the world of today. This has been the topic of discussion in our local Branch (as no doubt in many others) in recent meetings and the consensus of opinion was that it is under-used and under-funded.

No Toc H member would dispute the importance of the Old House as a symbol of the Movement — its virtual birthplace — but one must remember that it had (and potentially still has) a very practical purpose. It is not to be thought of as merely a sort of shrine.

However, if one were to consider it in terms of its being a 'shrine' is it not true to say that a shrine is enhanced or diminished in status or prestige in direct relation to the number of pilgrims who visit it? I would venture to say that the proportion of Toc H members who have actually seen the Old House is a small minority in comparison with the total membership. Those who have had this privilege have to thank those selfless individuals who have taken the onerous responsibility of organising groups on their own initiative at considerable trouble to themselves. Would it not be an answer to many of the problems of the Old House, financial and otherwise, if such visits could be officially organised and sponsored by our Central Office? There must be a great, number of members who would dearly like to see 'where it all started' if they had the chance, so there would be plenty of potential 'customers' to make such a scheme economically viable.

This clearly raises the issue of the provision of better accommodation and catering facilities at Poperinge but surely the investment would be worthwhile purely from the money angle. However, it is not merely to be examined from that viewpoint. The Old House is the 'cornerstone' of our Movement and the more 'pilgrims' there are to the 'Upper Room' — of which as yet I for one have had only second-hand description — the greater will be the spiritual strength of Toc H which at present is in danger of flagging.

Could we therefore make a plea to Central Office to do something positive about Poperinge along the lines outlined and make the Old House live again for everyone in Toc H. It is not just another Mark to be closed down.

J G Morris Pant Joint Branch, Toc H

#### 'Worshipping The One God'

I have just finished reading an article in *Point Three*. February issue, entitled 'Worshipping The One God' by Hugh Potts, the Padre for West Midlands and the South Wales Region.

I am extremely sad to read that Hugh Potts, and presumably Toc H as a whole, believe that all the faiths he had mentioned actually worship one and presumably the same God. As somebody who believes in the relevance of practical Christianity, I am very concerned about the views expressed in the article, and I would like to point out a few ideas that Toc H may like to consider.

To practical Christians, the Bible is authoritative as God's word, therefore the following verses would contradict the view Hugh's article upholds. I could point out vv 3 and 4 in Exodus, Chapter 20 which say that 'You shall have no other Gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven or on earth?' It is impossible to believe in Christianity without obeying and believing the Bible.

If there were really more than one way to God, then Jesus Christ would not have been sent. Again, as a practical Christian, I believe wholeheartedly that Jesus Christ or God in the form of man, died willingly for the wrong-doings of all the world, including Sikhs, Moslems and Hindus and all those who have no religion. If that does not make sense, then read a few passages in the New Testament.

I need to point out specifically that this does not set me up as any better than anyone else or as any more valuable than those who believe in the Sikh, Moslem or Hindu faith. Jesus Christ alone has dealt with all the wrongs that separate all of us from God.

Perhaps Toc H should review it's constitution and especially the paragraph which appears each month on the front cover of *Point Three*. It notes that 'Toc H today provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity'. Surely this can only be the Christianity talked about in the Bible, and Jesus Christ who is at the heart of Christianity.

Perhaps Toc H should consider what this really means. If it is prepared to believe that all faiths worship one God, then perhaps it should find out more about what Christianity really says.

I feel that Toc H should explain what it really believes about Christianity, especially to Christians within the Movement who have spent, and will spend, their time working for Toc H.

I would welcome replies from anyone and everyone who is interested, for or against this view.

Sue Whight London

(Owing to lack of space, some letters have been held over - Ed)



Bargain time at the Leigh Branch Christmas Fair.

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

Fund raising. Spring flower bulbs for resale at Direct from Grower Prices. Good profits to be made on quality daffodils, tulips, crocus, hyacinths etc. Add a new dimension to your Autumn Fayres, Coffee Mornings etc. Price list sent on request. M K & B Chappell, Fengate Road, West Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs. Tel: Pinchbeck Bars 381.

Conwy. B & B from £8. Dinner optional. Conwy. B & B from £8. Dinner optional Walking, touring, sea, mountains, on the edge of beautiful Snowdonia. Doreen and Bill Baxter, Llys Gwilym Guest House, 3 Mountain Road, Cadnant Park, Conwy, Gwynedd, N Wales. Tel: 049 263 2351.

Clacton five berth caravan, fully equipped, excellent site facilities including pool, shops, children's playground and social centre. May/June £55 pw, July £60 pw, August £70 pw, September £55 pw. Full details from: Mr J A Turner, 60 Hall End Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9HP. (Tel: 0234 768410).





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## Forthcoming Events

April		
April	4/ 6	Folk and Craft Weekend: Colsterdale Open
	7 0	New Games Weekend Open
	7/12	Exploring Dartmoor, Leisure Week at Kingsteignton Open
	11/13	Central Councillors Training Weekend: Cuddesdon
May	,	Taming Working Coddesiden
,	2/ 5	Project: Mountain Conservation, S Wales Open
	2/ 5	Weekend visit to Talbot House, Poperinge Open
	3	Notts & Derby Area Gathering: Ravenshead Open
	3/5	Health and Fitness Weekend: Kingsteignton Open
	10	W Mids and S Wales Regional Council
	10/11	SW Region Quiet Days: Compton Turville Open
	12/15	Staff Conference: London Colney
	23/30	Project: Children Camping, N Yorks Open
	26	Great Strait Raft Run: Bangor, Gwynedd
	30/ 1	Weekend without words: Kingsteignton Open
June		
	1	Toc H Marafun Open
	5/12	Outdoor Pursuits and Painting Week, Port Penrhyn Open
	6/ 8	Project 7 – Visit to Talbot House, Poperinge Open
	7	SE Regional Council
	19/26	Music and Painting Week, Cuddesdon Open
	20/22	Open Weekend, Colsterdale Open
	21	Project 8, Visit to Talbot House, Poperinge Open
		SW Regional Executive
	25/to 4 July	Project 9, Adventure Week for Mentally Handicapped Children, Port Penrhyn Open
	30/to	Handicapped Children, Port Penrhyn Open Project 45, Holiday at Weirside for
	4 July	Mentally Handicapped Adults Open

## TocH Marafun

Event to be held on Sunday, 1 June 1986 at Trent Park, Cockfosters, Nr Barnet, Herts Tube — Piccadilly Line

Aim: To raise urgently needed funds for Toc H and other charitable organisations

Following the successful Marafun that was organised last year, it has been decided to repeat the event this year, but on a much grander scale; it has also been decided that the money which will be raised by sponsorship will be split between Toc H and other charities.

It is hoped that this will be a most enjoyable day with entry being open to everyone, as well as those intending to complete part or full marathons. Applications are expected from a much wider cross-section of people to include those from handicapped and disabled organisations as well as those, for example, who may take part in a 'bed-push' or 'wheelchair-push' on the tarmac course which is available. It is also hoped that schools, youth clubs, TAG & Toc H Action Groups and other young peoples' organisations will take part to raise funds for their activities.

Help is needed to find participants. Entry and sponsorship forms are being distributed via Toc H Branches in the immediate area and via other organisations, or can be obtained from Dorothy Daniels, 5 Alvuhera Close, Enfield EN2 8NR. Tel: 01 367 1921.

#### PLEASE GIVE THIS YOUR SUPPORT

## World Chain of Light 1986

Will start from Alison House, Cromford, in Derbyshire, at 9pm on 11 December where the 24 hour vigil will be held.

Branches in the UK and in countries west of the UK should take Light at 9pm local time on the 11th.

Countries to the east of the UK should take Light at 9pm local time, on the 12th.

## Castle Hall Kaleidoscope!

Saturday, 12 July

Don't be left out! Come and help at Hertford in July. There will be Pensioners from Whitechapel, Housebound and Handicapped from Hackney, and others for whom their day out will be a treat. There will be volunteers from local Branches, and from the Bangladeshi community in East and West London — but MORE ARE NEEDED.

Helpers are needed from 10am to 6pm or for periods between that. Whether you can bring food, serve food, make tea, push wheelchairs, greet guests, organise games, play the recordplayer, act as guides round the town or whatever, you are needed!

Offers of help please, to John Harding, 21 Westfield Road, Hertford SG14 3DL Tel: Hertford 53855.

## Natural History Weekend

ALISON HOUSE 16-18 May 1986

This will be an informal weekend with a Natural History bias. The walks on Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday morning will be spent looking at the wild flowers which abound in the Cromford area. There will be a slide show, lecture and informal discussion on Saturday evening.

The charge for the weekend is £23 per person and bookings should be made to the Warden, Toc H Conference Centre, Alison House, Intake Lane, Cromford, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3RH.